Anticipated lay-offs due to global recession

350. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether unusually large number of "lay-offs" are anticipated in view of the global recessionary trends impacting our economy slowing down;

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated to ensure that majority of our working class are not adversely affected either through loss of employment or drastic curtailment of their wages; and

(c) whether large industrial units, which are normally labour intensive, been sensitized to deal with such situations keeping the work force generally satisfied to avoid any law and order problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) No exhaustive survey/study has been conducted regarding lay-offs of workers due to economic slowdown. However, a sample study has been conducted by the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment and wage cuts in various sectors like Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO for the period October-December, 2008 in the country. According to the Study, job loss of half a million persons has been found and the average earnings have declined by 3.45 percent during October-December, 2008.

Government is concerned about the impact of economic slowdown in the country and several measures financial and fiscal have been initiated to spur growth and overcome the crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and an economic package by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts. These measures will prevent large scale job losses and wage cuts.

Pension scheme for unorganized workers

351. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed for initiation of pension scheme for unorganized workers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of beneficiaries covered under this scheme;

(c) whether Government has made any awareness campaign regarding functioning of this scheme for the benefit of unorganized workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The old age pension scheme has been extended to all BPL